

## NIFA in the News – Week of March 4, 2013

Curious as to what happens to all the news releases you see in the [NIFA newsroom](#)? Here's the weekly summary of NIFA's mentions in the news media for the week of March 4, 2013.

### In the News

**North Carolina, Tennessee scientists teaming up to improve organic produce safety (Southeast Farm Press 3/4).** A group of scientists at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture and North Carolina State University are working together to improve the safety of organic produce — naturally. Their study, “Alternative Post-harvest Washing Solutions to Enhance the Microbial Safety and Quality of Organic Fresh Produce,” began last fall. The four-year, multi-disciplinary project is supported by a nearly \$2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) program. [Link](#)

**UK Researcher Awarded \$2.9 Million for EVA Research (The Horse 3/5).** Udeni Balasuriya, BVSc, MS, PhD, a professor at the University of Kentucky (UK) Maxwell H. Gluck Equine Research Center, recently received \$2.9 million to identify the genetic factors responsible for establishment of the equine arteritis virus (EAV) carrier state in stallions. The five-year grant was awarded by the USDA Agriculture and Food Research Initiative. [Link](#)

**NCSU bags \$2M organic foods research grant (Triangle Business Journal 3/5).** A group of N.C. State University researchers will share in a \$2 million grant to naturally improve the safety of organic produce. The \$2 million grant, which comes from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative (OREI) program, will be shared with scientists at the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture. Their study - “Alternative Post-harvest Washing Solutions to Enhance the Microbial Safety and Quality of Organic Fresh Produce” - began last fall. [Link](#)

**School Bell: Oakley's Freedom High enjoys science event, learning from UC students, Delta Science representatives (MercuryNews.com 3/6).** Freedom High recently participated in AFRI Science Days held in partnership with the Delta Science Center. Of course, the day focused on the local waterway and featured topics like the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta; the history of the levees; and the challenges in the Delta. This Agriculture and Food Research Initiative event was made possible by a grant from the center, USDA, UC Berkeley and UC Davis. Its focus is for local high school students to "put classroom theory into practice," according to the website. [Link](#)

**USDA official discusses problem of feeding 9 billion people (University of Buffalo Reporter 3/8).** Earth's exponentially growing population is a "wicked problem" at the root of every major issue plaguing Earth today, Sonny Ramaswamy, director of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, said at a thought-provoking presentation March 6 in the Center for the Arts. Ramaswamy used the term "wicked problem," coined in 1973 by German industrial engineer Horace Rittel, to describe a predicament where the path to progress is blocked because superficial disagreements or political infighting prevent the best technology available from coming to the rescue. [Link](#)

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Published on March 11, 2013 / Jennifer Martin